

**Pembroke Diocesan Council of the Catholic Women's League of Canada  
Fall Meeting, Our Lady of Sorrows, Petawawa, October 28, 2023, Oral Report  
Pat Weller, Communications Chair**

Good communications requires the use of the whole gamut of resources as we strive to maintain and grow connections within and outside the League, between the sender and the receiver.

I happened to catch a recent episode of the CBC radio program "Under the Influence". The topic centered on a "community" app used by celebrities in order to have a more intimate relationship with their fans. Host Terry O'Reilly ended on a note that questioned whether one can maintain that "special feeling" when fan numbers get too big. The song, "You've Lost that Loving Feeling" by the Righteous Brothers, kept coming into my mind.

Another item affecting communications is the demise of the local print newspapers. This is happening across the country and is a result of a number of factors and its impacts are numerous. A recent CBC Ottawa newscast reported on this loss. One person interviewed worked with Community Living in Lanark County. She commented that her clients had lost a purpose to leave their apartments to get a paper. The social interaction that resulted from going for the paper was as important as the paper's content. The value of certain media sources go beyond the obvious, in this case, breaking the feeling of isolation and making connections with other people.

We have all of these tools that technology has gifted us but ultimately, we have to maintain a personal connection for the tools to work. The app, the social media platform, or the print media connect us in different ways. Some are instantaneous in reaching us. Others come more slowly. We have to find ways to use these resources to make the necessary connections to walk alongside our sisters in the League. Let's not lose that "loving feeling" because, in the end, the love we show our neighbour in the way we communicate is a reflection of the love we have for God.

Respectfully submitted